

March 25, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - Yesterday, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) joined several colleagues in calling on U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Thomas Vilsack to come to the aid of dairy farmers as prices for cheese and non-fat dried milk fall and threaten the industry once again.

"The success of our local dairy farmers is critical to the Upstate New York economy," **said Arcuri.**

"This sudden drop in dairy prices is causing farms, still in recovery from the 2009 price crisis, to go deeper into debt. Dairy farms and their employees cannot handle a second price punch. I fear without swift action from the federal government to help stabilize the market, farms across the region will go under."

In 2009, Arcuri joined colleagues in sending two separate letters to Secretary Vilsack requesting he increase dairy prices under the Dairy Product Price Support Program (DPPSP) as the global dairy industry experienced a freefall in the price of milk because of the worldwide economic recession and fewer dairy exports overseas. Within days the USDA responded by raising support prices from August 1, 2009 through October 31, 2009, which helped stabilize the dairy market and increase prices towards the cost of production.

In the letter sent yesterday, Arcuri and his colleagues ask the USDA to increase support prices for cheese and non-fat dried milk through the DPPSP, through which the government purchases dairy products directly from producers and processors to reduce over-supply and increase prices. This move will increase the amount paid directly to dairy farmers, still recovering from the 2009 price crisis.

[Click here to view the letter sent to Secretary Tom Vilsack](#)

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